STC 833-9

By the King.

WEe haue ſince our entry into this Realme of England, had ſpecial care to make all our Subiects know, with how equall affection we reſolued to proceede in all things which ſhould concerne the ſafetie or honor of our Kingdomes, for both which we know we are to make one and the ſelf-ſame accompt to Almighty God, vnder whom we hold all earthly things; In which reſpect, we were very curious to preuent at our firſt comming all manner of offences or affronts, which naturally doe ariſe betweene ſeuerall Nations at their firſt ioyning in ſocietie and conuerſation, neuer ceaſing to lay ſeuere commandement vpon our greateſt Subiects that came in with vs, to ſuppreſſe any iniurious Actions of any of their Seruants or Traine, towards the meaneſt Subiect of Engliſh birth, in whom from the higheſt to the loweſt we haue obſerued ſo great loue and generall obedience to vs and our Commandements: And whenſoeuer it hath come to our eares that any Offence hath bene done by any of them, wee haue made them know how much it hath diſpleaſed vs. Notwithſtanding, becauſe we doe heare of many Inſolencies reported to be committed by our Nation of Scotland to our Engliſh Subiects, with this addition further, That the Magiſtrates and Iuſtices are thought to be remiſſe towards ſuch, in doubt leſt the ſame ſhould be offenſiuely reported to vs: We haue thought it conuenient aſwell for the ſatisfaction of the one ſort, as for admonition to the others, to publiſh by open ſignification, That ſeeing it hath pleaſed Almightie God to call vs to the Supreme power ouer both, wee are purpoſed to be an vniuerſall and equall Soueraigne to them both, and to adminiſter Iuſtice where there ſhall be occaſion, without any worldly reſpect to either of them. And therefore doe hereby enioyne all Lieutenants, Deputy Lieutenants, Iuſtices of Peace, and all other our Officers and Miniſters of this Kingdome, that whenſoeuer complaint ſhall be made to any of them, that breach of Peace is committed by thoſe of our Nation of Scotland, vpon the Subiects of England, or by the Subiects of England vpon thoſe of the Nation of Scotland, In both which kindes we heare of many great abuſes, though ſometimes aggrauated according to the humour of the Reporters, they ſhall carefully vpon euery complaint, examine with all indifferency the particulars of euery ſuch Action, and cauſe puniſhment to be inflicted vpon the partie offending, without reſpect of Nation, according to the Lawes of this Realme.

And to the end they may not doubt to proceede to the execution thereof: As we doe hereby not onely aſſure them that we will ſtrengthen and maintaine all Officers and Magiſtrates in the execution of their Offices, for the preſeruation of the publike Peace of this Realme: So if we ſhall ſee at any time that any Magiſtrate ſhal be ſlow to redreſſe ſuch grieuances, or puniſh the Offenders, we ſhall haue cauſe to thinke, that they are willing to nouriſh ſome cauſe of ſuch rumours, the rather to ſerue for colour or cauſe of further alienation, & ſo by conſequence of ſedition amongſt our people, and an hinderance to that vnion betweene both States, which is one of the greateſt benefits that we bring with vs to our people for their ſtrength and ſafetie; in gouerning of whom, though we muſt vſe, as all other Princes doe, the miniſtery of ſubordinate Miniſters, yet God Almighty knoweth, that in our owne mind there is not a thought of partialitie towards either of them, but an internal deſire and reſolution to affoord indifferent Grace and Iuſtice to all: For demonſtration whereof we haue bene forced to publiſh thus much, leſt the iniquitie of faction and vnruly ſpirits might blemiſh the innocencie and integritie of our heart towards all our Subiects, whom we holde dearer then our owne life.

Giuen at our Caſtle of Windſore the eight day of July, 1603. in the firſt yeere of our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, And of Scotland the ſixe and thirtieth.

God ſaue the King.

Imprinted at London by Robert Barker,
Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie.
ANNO DOM. 1603.